1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



river *Ochotſka* has three mouths; the New mouth, the Old mouth, and the *Bulginſkaya* out-let.

The New mouth is dry, except at the time of a great inundation; and even then veſſels cannot enter it. The preſent *Ochotſkoy* fort is built between the New and Old mouths, almoſt upon the beach; and the former, which is now called the old fort, was ſix verſts from the ſea. This place is called *Ochotſkoy* poſt, and commonly *Lama*; and has under its juriſdiction all *Kamtſchatka*, and the coaſt of the *Penſchinſka* ſea to the frontiers of *China*. For which reaſon the tax-gatherers are all ſent out from hence; and the tax, when gathered, is immediately brought from all other places hither, where it is firſt appraiſed, and then ſent into *Jakutzk*. Formerly the *Ochotſkoy* fort was poorly inhabited, and under the juriſdiction of *Jakutſki*, but it is much increaſed ſince the *Ruſſians* have made this the port for their paſſage by ſea to *Kamtſchatka*.

This place is better built than any of the other forts, the houſes being good and regular, particularly thoſe belonging to the government, in which the officers of the *Kamtſchatka* expeditions reſided. In my time there was neither a church nor a fortification, but they were building both. Though the country be as barren as *Kamtſchatka*, yet its inhabitants are better furniſhed with every thing, becauſe goods and proviſions brought from *Jakutſki* are ſold here cheaper by one half. Though plenty of corn is brought here, yet no freſh meat is to be got, except wild fowl and veniſon, and that ſeldom. Fiſh in this place is almoſt as plenty as in *Kamtſchatka*, except the *Chaveecha*, which they bring hither from thence. The greateſt want in this place is that of good paſturage near them; therefore the inhabitants cannot breed cattle. They have tried many times to keep them upon the river *Avi*, but with great loſs, moſt of them dying for want of ſuſtenance. Time will ſhew whether the *Jakutſki* people, that are ſettled along the rivulets which fall into the *Ochotſka*,

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



*Ochotska*, be more ſucceſsful. The want of cattle, in ſome meaſure, is made up by the deer, which the natives have in greater plenty than in *Kamtſchatka*; but theſe are more uſed for carriage than food. They alſo travel with dogs, but not ſo commonly as in *Kamtſchatka*.

There were four tranſport-veſſels built here: namely; the Fortune, in which in the year 1737 I went to the Great River, and which was loſt ſoon after; the boat Hauriel, which was uſed alſo in long ſea voyages for ſome time; the Galliot *Ochotska*; and a ſmall veſſel, which was not then launched. The paſſage by ſea uſed formerly to be only once a year; namely, in the autumn, when the tax-gathers went from *Ochotſky* to *Kamtſchatka*, and brought back the tax the next year: but now they go oftener.

The paſſage from the *Ochotska* to the Great River is directly ſouth-eaſt. Between the fort *Ochotskoy* and the river *Amur*, whoſe heads are in the *Ruſſian* dominions, the following rivers run into the ſea: the firſt is *Urack*, 24 verſts from the *Ochotska*. It is to be obſerved, that in the time of the *Kamtſchatka* expeditions the proviſions were uſed to be ſent down this river upon flat-bottomed boats to the *Ochotska*; for which reaſon they built a dock 50 verſts from its mouth, where the ſailors and the *Ochotſkoy* Coſſacks uſed to build veſſels for the above expeditions, and ſend the ſaid proviſions from the *Iudomſkoy* Kreſt, or croſs, to that place over land by horſes or deer in ſledges. But this way of carriage by water was attended with great trouble, loſs of time and people; for the river is very rapid, rocky, and full of cataracts, and not always deep enough, except in the ſpring, or after great rains: and as theſe additional waters run ſoon off, they are obliged to watch every opportunity of ſending down the loaded veſſels; which if they omit, they muſt often wait a long time.

There never was a fleet ſo happy in this navigation as not to loſe ſome veſſels either by rocks or cataracts, many of which are ſo

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



103 131 the natives *Kurili*, and by the *Ruſſians Kuriles*. The exact number of thoſe iſlands cannot be aſcertained; but, according to the verbal accounts which were gathered from the *Kuriles*, and the natives of the ſouthernmoſt iſlands, and from the *Japaneſe*, who were driven by diſtreſs of weather upon the coaſt of *Kamtſchatka*, they are reckoned to be twenty-two. Perhaps they do not take the ſmall ones into this number: for by the account of captain *Spanberg*, who went as far as *Japan*, there appears to be a great many more; but as the ſaid captain found it difficult to give them *Ruſſian* names, all of them that had any relation to the *Kurilskoy* names, except the two that lay neareſt to *Matma Kunatin*, were allowed to keep their former appellations.

133 136 161 651 *Schumtſchu* is the neareſt iſland to the *Kurilskaya Lopatka*, and extends in length from the north-eaſt to the ſouth-weſt 50 verſts, and in breadth about 30. This iſland is full of mountains, out of which, as alſo from the ſmall lakes and marſhes, many little rivers run into the ſea. In ſome of them are found different kinds of ſalmon, and ſeveral other fiſh, but not in ſuch plenty as to furniſh the inhabitants with proviſions for a winter. Upon the ſouth-weſt point, near the ſtreight that is between this and the ſecond *Kurilskoy* iſland, are three *Kurilskoy* ſettlements, that contain only 44 inhabitants; ſome of whom pay the taxes in ſables and foxes, but the majority pay them in ſea-beavers' ſkins.

The inhabitants of this iſland, as well as thoſe of the *Kurilſkaya Lopatka*, are not the right *Kuriles*, but are of the race of the *Kamtſchadales:* for ſome diſſentions having ariſen between the inhabitants of that nation, ſoon after the *Ruſſians* entered the country, a large party of them retired here and to the *Lopatka*; where they became connected, by mutual inter-marriages, with the people of the ſecond iſland, whoſe particular cuſtoms they have adopted, and from thence have received the name of *Kuriles*.

The

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



ed: thoſe of the remote iſlands brought to them all ſorts of lackered wooden ware, ſcymitars, ſilver rings which they wear in their ears, and cotton ſtuffs; and from them in return, they uſed to take chiefly, eagles' feathers, which are uſed in ornamenting their arrows: this ſeems very probable; for I had from this iſland a lackered waiter, a baſon, a *Japaneſe* ſcythe, and a ſilver ring; all which I have ſent to the *Imperial* Chamber of curioſities. Theſe articles the *Kuriles* could have from no other place than from *Japan*.

The *Kuriles* of this iſland[1] have their habitations near the ſouth-weſt point, upon a lake five verſts in circumference, out of which a ſmall rivulet, called *Petpu*, runs into the ſea.

Both theſe iſlands are ſubject to frequent and terrible earthquakes, and inundations: one of theſe calamities happened in the year 1737, about the time of my coming to *Kamtſchatka*; and another in *November*, 1742. We ſhall relate the firſt circumſtantially in its proper place; but as for the ſecond, though it was great, yet I have not been informed of the miſchief and deſtruction it occaſioned; for it happened after my departure from *Kamtſchatka*; and Mr. *Steller* makes no mention of it in his account.

The third *Kurilskoy* iſland is called *Sirinki*, and lies ſouth-weſt of *Paromuſir*. The fourth iſland is called *Onnecutan*. This iſland is leſs than *Paromuſir*, and lies from north-eaſt to ſouth-weſt, as that does, from which they row to it in one day. It has many inhabitants of the ſame origin with the *Kuriles* of *Paromuſir* iſland, as was ſaid before, out of which ſome families go over to viſit the inhabitants of *Paromuſir*, and voluntarily pay a tribute in beavers and foxes. The author concludes from this, that the reſt of theſe iſlands would not refuſe to pay the tribute, if proper perſons were ſent to bring them under ſubjection; and give them aſſurances, by

1 [Parmushir]

kind

l: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



kind repreſentations, of the clemency of her Imperial majeſty, 657
with promiſes that ſhe would protect and defend them from their enemies.

Neither I nor Mr. *Steller* could have an oppportunity to in- 133
form ourſelves particularly of the reſt of the *Kurilski* iſlands; therefore we ſhall give the accounts of them that were communicated to me by Mr. *Muller*, which he had from the *Japaneſe*, who were ſhipwrecked upon the coaſts of *Kamtſchatka*.

Between Mr. *Muller's* account and our's, there is ſome difference; for in his, *Onnecutan* is called the ſixth iſland. However this might happen only on account of his reckoning the ſmall iſlands alſo, which the *Kuriles* do not. According to his deſcription, beyond the *Paromuſir*, or the ſecond *Kurilskoy* iſland, there are three more iſlands; *Sirinki* is reckoned the third; *Uyakoopa*, the fourth; and the *Kukumita*, or *Cucumiva*, the fifth; the *Sirinki* and *Kukumita* are ſmaller than *Uyakoopa*, which iſland is remarkable for a high mountain. The ſaid iſlands are placed in a triangle; the *Uyakoopa* lying moſt north, and fartheſt weſt; and the *Sirinki*, with regard to the former, ſouth-eaſt, and in the ſame longitude with *Paromuſir*; and the *Kukumita* a little farther ſouthward than the *Uyakoopa*. It ſeems that theſe iſlands in the General *Ruſſian* map are expreſſed under the names of *Diacon*, *St. Iliab*, and *Galanta*, which are placed in a triangle, though their ſituation is not exactly the ſame as in the above deſcription. The ſixth *Kurilskoy* iſland, according to Mr. *Muller*, is called *Muska* and *Onnecutan*. The ſeventh is *Araumakutan*, is uninhabited, and there are ſome burning mountains as in *Kamtſchatka*. On the eighth iſland *Sujaskutan*, which is as large as the former, ſome few people inhabit who are not taxed. From this iſland to the weſt lies the ninth called *Emarka*; and thence on the ſouth-weſt ſide is the tenth iſland *Maſhachu*, which is ſmall and uninhabited; and on the ſouth-eaſt ſide from the *Sujaskutan* there is a ſmall iſland *Ebachu*, which is reckoned the eleventh.

The

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



The ſables of *Kamtſchatka* excel all other ſables of *Siberia*, both in largeneſs, thickneſs of hair, and brightneſs; but in point of blackneſs they do not come up to thoſe of *Olekmine* and *Vitime:* however their other properties are ſo valuable, that the *Kamtſchatka* ſables have by much the preference; and in *China*, where they know how to improve the colour, fetch ſo great a price that few of them are brought into *Ruſſia*. The ſables of *Tegbil* and *Oukine* are moſt eſteemed, and are ſometimes ſold for thirty rubles a pair. Mr. *Steller* ſays, that the worſt are hunted about the *Lopatka* and *Kurilſkoy* ſeas. It often happens that the worſt kind of ſables ſhall have their tails ſo black and thick haired, that they will ſell dearer than any other.

Before the conqueſt of *Kamtſchatka* there was ſo great a plenty of ſables that one hunter would kill ſeventy or eighty in a year; and that not for the ſake of the furr, but the fleſh, which they eſteem very delicious. The inhabitants at that time willingly agreed to pay their tribute in ſables; and were glad to receive a knife for eight, and an ax for eighteen. Some merchants have gained in one year by furrs only more than thirty thouſand rubles. The ſables are ſtill in much greater plenty here than in any other country, as is obſerved by every one who has been upon the ſpot, and compared their tracts upon the ſnow with what are ſeen either upon the rivers *Lena* or *Beloy*, and this even in the neighbourhood of the forts. And if the people of *Kamtſchatka* were as induſtrious in hunting as thoſe about the *Lena*, they could ſell a great many more than they; but ſuch is their natural lazineſs, that they never kill more than what they muſt pay in tribute, and what will pay their debts. They look upon him as an extraordinary good hunter that kills ſix or ſeven ſables in a winter; and ſeveral are not able to furniſh their tribute furrs, but muſt borrow either from the *Ruſſian* Coſſacks, or ſome more induſtrious hunter of

 their

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



fefs any thing more than what they had done voluntarily before.

Since this time all things are intirely quiet there; and it is hoped they will continue ſo, affairs being brought into ſuch order, that the natives themſelves could not wiſh for more, being only obliged to pay their taxes, without the leaſt oppreſſion, which conſiſt only in one ſkin for every man of ſuch creatures as he is uſed to hunt, ſuch as ſables, foxes, or ſea beavers. Juſtice, except in criminal caſes, is adminiſtered by their own chieftains. The Coſſacks are forbidden to demand former debts, which they pretended were due from the natives. Their principal happineſs conſiſts in the converſion of ſeveral of them to Chriſtianity; to which end her Majeſty has been graciouſly pleaſed to appoint miſſionaries and ſchoolmaſters, who keep ſchools in the principal villages for the inſtruction of the youth, both natives and Coſſacks; and they begin now to be ſo much improved, that they even laugh at their former barbarity.

## CHAP. V.

### *The preſent* STATE *of the* FORTS *and* VILLAGES *of* Kamtſchatka, *with a particular Account of each.*

THERE are five *Ruſſian* forts in *Kamtſchatka*: the 1ſt called the *Bolſcheretſkoi*, the 2d upper *Kamtſchatka*, 3d the lower *Shaltolski*, 4th the haven of *Petropaulauſkay*, and 5th on the river *Teghil*. The *Bolſcheretſkoi* fort ſtands upon the northen bank of the *Bolſchaia-reka*, or Great River, between the mouths of the rivers *Beeſtra* and *Golſoftka*, 33 verſts from the *Penſchinſka* ſea. The fort is 70 feet ſquare; the eaſt and north ſides are fortified with paliſades, the ſouth and weſt with different

l: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



and ſometimes they played 'till both parties had pawned their cloaths for brandy. Such way of living, one may eaſily believe, was attended with great confuſion; but what the poor ſlaves ſuffered is almoſt incredible, being obliged ſometimes to change their maſters twenty times a day.

The invention of making ſpirits happened accidentally. The Coſſacks, after the manner of the natives, made a great proviſion of all kinds of berries for the winter. It happened ſometimes that they began to ferment in the ſpring, and could be uſed no other way than in drink. This drink was obſerved to cauſe drunkenneſs when taken in great quantities; upon which they began to diſtil it, and, to their great ſurpriſe and pleaſure, found that it produced a good ſpirit. They have ſince diſcovered that they could make brandy from an infuſion of the ſweet graſs, and now they have ſpirits in plenty. Their method of preparing this herb for diſtillery we have already explained.

Thoſe that are curious to know whence the Coſſacks ſettled here obtained their riches, muſt be informed that they owe them to the following circumſtances: firſt, when they conquered the natives they made all the plunder they could: ſecondly, every party of Coſſacks, that was employed in gathering the taxes, obliged each tributary native, beſides the crown tax, to give them four fox-ſkins and one ſable, which they divided among themſelves: thirdly, by their commerce with the natives, whom they obliged to pay a very high price for every trifle they furniſhed them with. Although, at preſent, the Coſſacks are forbidden to take any thing more than the crown tax, yet they are ſtill allowed to ſet what price they pleaſe upon their goods; and indeed they ſell them, or change them for furrs, at very great profits, and ſometimes for proviſions, nets, and boats. Without this they would not be able to live upon their ſmall pay, which is no more than what they uſed to receive at *Jakutſki*, and, both in money and proviſions, does not amount to above 14 rubles

1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal



441 The goods ſold at *Kamtſchatka* at prime-coſt ſcarcely exceed 10 or 12,000 rubles, but the ſales amount to 30 or 40,000 rubles; and if a merchant carries theſe *Kamtſchatka* goods to the fair upon the frontiers of *China*, he may receive double the price he buys them at; ſo that this commerce may eaſily appear to be very advantageous.

439 651 437 The goods that are brought out of *Kamtſchatka* conſiſt of furrs, ſuch as ſea beavers', ſables', foxes', and a few otters' ſkins. As there was formerly no money in this country, the way of trading was in exchange for furrs; and now they have money, they fix the price by the ſkins, reckoning a good fox-ſkin at a ruble. All goods brought out of *Kamtſchatka* pay 10 per cent. duty, but the ſables 12.

## CHAP. VIII.

600 ### *The Different* ROADS *between* Jakutſki *and* Kamtſchatka.

THOUGH it may at firſt appear needleſs to mention all the different roads to *Kamtſchatka*, eſpecially as ſeveral of them are now no more uſed, yet, upon due conſideration it will be found to ſerve for an illuſtration of the different ſettlements of the *Ruſſian* colonies, and to ſhew what people are ſubject and pay taxes to each of theſe ſettlements. It will alſo explain the manner of reducing theſe people and making them tributary, and deſcribe the difficulties of this journey, although there had been no danger from an enemy, in which the tax-gatherers were continually expoſed to hunger and cold in an unknown country, whereby many of them loſt their lives. The Coſſacks were only able to make this journey

5; Jochelson A-5 (1910-11) 1928 Kamchadal



sheretsk, and everywhere the Russians were slain. It so happened, however, that the *Gabriel* unexpectedly returned on account of an impending storm, not being prepared for a sea-voyage; and besides the crew were not eager to go to Anadyr. The sudden return of the *Gabriel* saved the Russians of the Peninsula. With the assistance of the sailors, Verkhne-Kamchatsk and Bolsheretsk were successfully held; Nishne-Kamchatsk was recaptured and the revolt was suppressed.

When the news of the revolt and its suppression reached Yakutsk the Administration resolved to send a commission to Kamchatka to investigate the cause of the uprising and the revolts of the Cossacks against their chiefs. At the head of the commission were Majors Mekhlin and Pavlutzky, former lieutenants of Shestakoff. The investigation lasted from 1733 to 1739. Sentences of death were passed by the commissioners on several Kamchadal chiefs and other instigators of the uprising, as well as on Cossacks convicted of criminal actions. Among the Russians executed was the Cossack officer Stinnikov, who in 1729 ordered the killing of the Japanese and robbed their ship, which was carried by the winds to the southern shores of Kamchatka.

### SOME MENTAL TRAITS OF THE OLD KAMCHADAL

The old Kamchadal were proud, independent, inclined to wrath; their passions were easily aroused; they took offense readily and tried to avenge themselves by any possible means. They had no fear of death and could not be frightened. In order to demonstrate the psychology of the old Kamchadal some historical instances are cited of the relations between the Russians and Kamchadal before the final pacification of the latter.

In the winter of 1712 the Chief Antzyferoff with 25 Cossacks endeavored to collect tribute from the Avacha Kamchadal near where the fortress of Petropavlovsk was subsequently established. The Avacha Kamchadal were informed of the imminent arrival of the collectors. They built a solid blockhouse on posts with secretly lifting doors.[1] The Russians were met with simulated pleasure. Amidst mutual professions of friendship the transactions began, the Kamchadal readily surrendering a number of their principal men as hostages for their good behavior. At night they retired with the Cossacks to the pile-dwelling for sleep. But the natives planned to burn the building in the night and with it all the inmates. Their own men, however, were to escape through a secret passageway. But after the pile-dwelling was fired, they learned to their horror that their hostages had been chained by the Cossacks so that escape was impossible. The hostages, however, pleaded with their kinsmen outside to let the holocaust go on if, by perishing themselves, they could secure the destruction of the enemy, and so all in the building perished together.

Among the Kamchadal leaders of the revolt was the chief of Yelovka River, a tributary of the Kamchatka River, Tighil by name. When Nishne-Kamchatsk

[1] The old Kamchadal usually used such dwellings on platforms raised on piles as summer houses and now as storehouses.

5: Jochelson A-5 (1910-11) 1928 Kamchadal



669 761

was taken by the Russians, Tighil escaped to his fortified settlement in the mountains of Yelovka. Being pursued and overtaken by the Russians, he slaughtered his wives, children, kinsmen and dogs and killed himself.

One of the chiefs, sentenced to death as an instigator of the uprising, laughingly complained before the execution that he had the ill-luck to be hanged the last.

157 177 181

The present Kamchadal, however, have completely changed their psychology. They have a pitiful and humble appearance, and carry out each and every order of the Cossacks and the Russians in general. Evidently the process of Russianization, combined with two centuries of oppression by the Russian authorities, has brought about this change in the primitive character of the Kamchadal. This change, however, did not take place suddenly, but the tense energy of the people displayed in the general uprising was broken, never to recover. They became pacified.

### THE YASSAK OR FUR TRIBUTE

651 R. 177.65

The Kamchadal rebellions were chiefly caused by the extortionate demands made by the Cossacks and officials for furs and services for themselves. According to Krasheninnikoff[1] the Empress Elizabeth, after the general rebellion was crushed, issued an order limiting the yassak to one skin to a hunter of what ever animal he could bring; other historians of Siberia state it differently. The main factor attracting the Russians to Siberia in the early period of settlement was its wealth in furs. For one time furs were an important financial item in the budget of the Russian Empire; in the beginning of the seventeenth century the Treasury monopolized the fur trade. Czar Boris Godunoff decreed that the hunters and fur-traders deposit their merchandise in the Treasury for a fixed remuneration. The accumulated furs were placed in the care of a special department in Moscow, which disposed of them through its agents in Turkey, Persia, Bokhara and later in China. China in time became the largest and most profitable consumer of Siberian furs, for in exchange for its furs the Treasury would import from China gold and silver with which the Moscowite Empire paid for its wars. The China trade continued to be a Government monopoly until 1762. In that year Empress Catherine II abolished the official caravans to Peking, leaving the trade, which was still based chiefly on furs, in the hands of private merchants. The free fur trade had a stimulating effect on the development of commercial relations between Siberia, European Russia and the neighboring countries. The Treasury on the other hand no longer insisted that the tribute of Siberia be paid in furs exclusively. They were now free to pay their tribute in money, the amount being approximately estimated according to the value of the furs. Thus the field for official abuses was reduced, and the attitude of the natives toward the Russians began to improve.

Attempts to subject the Kamchadal coincides with the period of the Government monopoly in furs, when fur tribute was the cause for which thousands of men were tortured and killed whenever they refused or were not able to satisfy the rapaciousness of the foreign invaders. The situation of the Kamchadal was

[1] Krasheninnikoff, part II, p. 287.

5: Jochelson A-5 (1910-11) 1928 Kamchada.



651 R. 177.65

particularly tragic, as the sable, for whose fur the Russian demand was greatest, was an animal which inhabited Kamchatka and not the territories to the north of it.

The question as to how tribute was to be levied was later put on a definite basis by the so-called First Tribute (Yassak) Commission of 1762–1766. The reform introduced by the commission was based on the following principles: (1) The tribute is to be paid by a representative for the clan or group; the further apportionment of the tribute among the individual hunters is left to the natives themselves. (2) The representative of the group is to deliver the tribute in person to the administrative center; collectors are abolished. (3) Subject to the tribute are native men from sixteen to sixty years of age, who are to be called "workers" or "tax souls." (4) Payment may be made in furs or in money, the amount being calculated in money for each person, and varying in the case of fur payments according to locality, the nature of the animals and the current valuation of the latter. These principles, with some additions and a general lowering of the amount of tribute to be paid, were accepted by the Second Tribute Commission of 1828–1835. The age of workers was limited to men from eighteen to fifty. The number of workers of every clan was fixed by the census. The last census for this purpose was taken in 1859.

The fur-tribute, however, continued to be levied and to serve as a way to abuses for officials until the February revolution of 1917, when the Provisional Government under Kerensky abolished altogether this form of taxation of the Siberian natives.[1]

[1] The author contributed to the decree by his articles in the press on the Yassak question.

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal



224 himſelf, and with his claws and teeth laid hold of the noſe of one of the dogs, who had no reaſon to be pleaſed with his reception. As we were deſirous of taking the animal alive, we kept back the dogs; the ſable quitted immediately his hold, and ran up a tree, where, for the third time, the nooſe, which had been tied anew, was preſented to him; it was not till the fourth attempt that the Kamtſchadale ſucceeded *. I could not have imagined that an animal, who has ſo much the appearance of cunning, would have permitted himſelf to be caught in ſo ſtupid a manner, and would himſelf have placed his head in the ſnare 224 that was held up to him. This eaſy mode 433 of catching ſables, is a conſiderable reſource 651 to the Kamtſchadales, who are obliged to

* M. Kaſloff, who preſided in this chace, had the politeneſs to make me a preſent of this ſable, called in this country *ſobol*, and promiſed to add it to another, that I might bring a couple with me to France.

651 pay their tribute in ſkins of theſe animals, as I ſhall explain hereafter *.

132 Two phenomena in the heavens were obſerved at the north-weſt, during the nights of the 13 and 14. From the deſcription that was given of them, we judged that they were auroræ boreales, and we lamented that we were not informed time enough to ſee them. The weather had been tolerably fair during our ſtay at the baths; but the weſtern part of the ſky had been almoſt conſtantly charged with very thick clouds. The wind varied from weſt to north-weſt, and gave us now and then a ſhower of ſnow, which did not yet acquire conſiſtency, notwithſtanding the froſts which we experienced every night.

000 Our departure was fixed for the 17 Octo-

* Theſe ſkins are not only a conſiderable branch of commerce, but ſerve as a ſpecies of money with the Kamtſchadales.

ber,

[October, 1787--analyst]

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal


793 ſalary of eighty roubles, and twenty *pouds** of rye flour. His pariſhioners of conſequence, pay no tythes; but he receives alms and other caſual emoluments attached to his church. For a marriage, a chriſtening, or a burial, theſe prieſts demand whatever they pleaſe. There is no regulation in this reſpect, and every thing is governed ſolely by their caprice, which occaſions conſiderable impoſitions and abuſes. In general however, they endeavour to proportion their demands to the abilities of their pariſhioners, a diſcretion that is entitled to applauſe.

651 The Kamtſchadales are free. They are
R ſubject only to an annual tribute to Ruſſia,
177 which conſiſts, as I have already ſaid, in
.65 various kinds of furs; ſo that the produce of their chace, turns almoſt entirely to the

* A Ruſſian weight equal to about thirty-three pounds.

advantage

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal



651
R
177
.65

advantage of the empreſs. Every chief of a family is obliged to furniſh for himſelf and for each of his children, even ſuch as are in their minority, a certain quantity of ſkins equivalent to his ſhare of taxation: this may amount to ſeven roubles more or leſs, and the ſkins, I am told, are generally valued at the loweſt poſſible price. This mode of paying tribute muſt produce a conſiderable revenue to the crown, if we merely judge from the number of ſables the province annually ſupplies, which is ſomething more than four thouſand. The toyon of each oſtrog collects the taxes, and remits them to the treaſurer of the crown; a receipt is previouſly given to every individual of the amount of his tribute, and each Kamtſchadale takes care to mark with his ſeal, or ſome other ſign, all the furs that he delivers.

The current coins are the golden imperial

of

27: Sauer--310-312 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal-1-3
116, 563, 635, 651 Russia
636.63

"In the year 1783 a mandate from her Imperial Majesty proclaimed Neizshni Kamtshatka a city; ordained it the seat of government of the country under the chancery of Ochotsk offered privileges to such merchants as chose to become burghers; and instituted courts of justice, establishments better calculated to govern 300,000 men than 1500, which is about the number of male inhabitants. The governor was denominated Gorodnitshik (mayor); and his establishment consists of a secretary and writers; a Kaznatshestva (exchequer) for the receipt of the revenue, and payment of officers; a Zemskoi Sud (court of the interior), of which the Ispravnik, or captain of the district, is president, and in this court one of the natives is a member to represent the whole body; with a magistracy to regulate mercantile concerns, as already mentioned. [311]

The salaries allowed by government to the different officers are as follow:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The Gorodnitshik | - - | 600 rubles. |
| His Secretary | - - | 300 |
| The Kaznatshae | - - | 400 |
| Ispravnik | - - | 400 |

other officers less in proportion; some of the writers having only 24 rubles per annum.

27: Sauer--310-312 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal-2
116, 563, 635, 651 Russia
636.63

| Prices of Articles 1793 | Kazan. | Kamtshatka. |
|---|---|---|
| Linen for shirts per arsheen* | 18 cop.* | 120 cop. |

*A pood is 40 lb. Russ, or 36 lb. English. 100 copeaks make a ruble; a copeak may be reckoned little more than a farthing sterling. 9 arsheens make 7 yards.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Boots per pair - - | 3 rub. | 12 to 18 rub. |
| Thread stockings do. - - | 125 cop. | 4 to 5 rub. |
| Soap per lb. - - | 6 cop. | 60 to 100 cop. |
| Candles do. - - | 8 cop. | 80 to 100 cop. |
| Tea do. - - | 2 rub. | 12 rub. |
| Sugar - - | 50 cop. | 3 rub. |
| Leaf tobacco per lib. - - | 5 cop. | 3 rub. |
| Rye flour, per pood* - - | 50 | 500 cop. |
| Wheat do. - - | 60 | 800 cop. |
| Rice per lib. - - | 10 | 100 cop. |

From this statement of prices, the impossibility of an officer living upon his salary will plainly appear; he is therefore compelled to find out some method of increasing his income, at the expence of the poor natives.

One of the captains of the district, who came here with his wife and family, finding himself extremely distressed, appropriated [312] the tribute of one year to his own use, and wrote a letter to the Empress; stating, that the severity of the climate, the prices of every article of life, and the wants of his family, had compelled him to make use of the tribute, consisting of such a number of sables and fox skins for their backs and bellies, which he rather chose to do than rob the poor natives (the only alternative). He requested her pardon, and an appointment where he could live upon his salary; and the industry of his family (of no benefit in Kamtshatka) might help to repay the amount of the articles that he had appropriated to his own use. The Empress ordered the governor to give him such an appointment, and pardoned him on account of the good reasons that he assigned; but this pardon was not to be regarded as a precedent; for such mercy was not to be extended to any future person who should dare to act in the same manner.

The magistracy receives its income from the burghers and meshanin. The latter are privileged pedlers (and the colonists are of the number); the former are divided into three classes, according to the extent of the capital that they give in, upon which they pay one per cent."

27: Sauer--306-307 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal-1-2
116, 161, 563, 651 Russia
636.65

"The number of inhabitants may be stated as follows, men, women and children:

| | |
|---|---|
| At the town (Neizshnoi) - - | 548 |
| Ostrog Tigil - - | 338 |
| Virchnoi - - | 226 |
| Bolshoiretsk - - | 235 |
| And at the harbour of St. Peter and St. Paul - - | 85 |
| Colonists - - - | 255 |
| Russians - - - | 1687 |
| Kamtshadals - - - | 1053 |
| Total - - - | 2740 |

Of the natives 351 males only pay tribute, or, rather, are living on the list of those who are tributary, according to the revision [307] made during the government of Mr. Reinikin, who succeeded Major Behm. The revisor (in 1784), by some unaccountable mistake, has frequently noted the name of one and the same person as the inhabitant of two or three villages; and from each village the tribute is exacted for this man. They have made repeated remonstrances, but in vain: this imposition, however, is the least

of their sufferings. They are compelled to pass the greater part of their time in procuring necessaries for their visitors. The governor makes his annual circuit round the peninsula, and receives a present from every individual; the captain of the district goes his rounds twice; different deputations from the courts of justice, soldiers on furlough, couriers, &c. all travel at the expence of the poor native, who is compelled to keep an extraordinary number of dogs for their conveyance. Government horses are quartered at each village, and the inhabitants must provide a stock of hay for them. Thus the Kamtshadal scarcely finds time to collect a supply of food in the fishing season for his own family."

27: Sauer--307-308 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal
116, 164, 177, 622, 651 Russia
636.65

"In 1768 the small-pox carried off 5368 of the inhabitants; and since the departure of Major Behm, the court of the interior (Zemskoi Suc) has discovered, that the Kamtshadals are indebted to government the whole tribute for the unfortunate sufferers by that disorder, and lay claims at present for the debt. The natives produce receipts; but are told, that an ukase from Irkutsk claims the payment. They appointed a delegate to lay their grievances at the feet of their sovereign; he, however, only reached Irkutsk, when he was promised redress, and sent back again: he returned last year, and is the chief of Shapinski village, a very intelligent man, and, I thought, very likely to help me to [308] some information as to their former customs and religion, which are now quite abolished; nor is their language pure."

27: Sauer--309-310 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal
116, 177, 273, 439, 651 Russia
636.65

"They have long since adopted the manners of the Russians, and profess the Greek religion. Of their former customs there only exist their lascivious dances, and their impure language, with part of the dress. They entertain the greatest veneration for the memory of Major Behm, under whose command they enjoyed the protection of a father. At that time Kamtshatka was governed merely by the major and his assistant, Captain Shmaleff, without any other court of justice. The revenue of this peninsula was then 40,000 rubles annually, arising from the tribute of the natives, the profits on brandy, and the duty on furs; which sum was remitted to the chancery of Ochotsk: a trading expedition in two or more open boats was yearly undertaken by the natives, accompanied by the priest of the peninsula, to the Kuril islands; from whence they obtained sea-otter skins of a superior [310] quality, several Japanese articles, and wrought silks. The merchants who visited the peninsula brought other necessaries, and hard money for the articles of the natives. Brandy not being considered as an article of trade, but a government concern, the sale was prohibited; and, the commander or his assistant inspecting the transactions of the merchants, prevented fraudulent proceedings on both sides."

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal



133 feet above the level of the sea. It has frequently emitted flames, lava, and dust, but its summit was not visible during my stay in this respectable village of Christians. After the grand eruption which I had witnessed in the Island of St. Vincent's, in 1812, I could feel no regret at not being able to see one in Kamtchatka. It is true that little or no mischief arises from the volcanoes of this Peninsula, and they may therefore be more innocently and placidly seen and contemplated.

651 The amount of tribute paid by the peasants is
563 about ten shillings, formerly it was twenty; being
R reduced one half at the time the Kamtchatdale ya-
177 sack was reduced from two to one sable. The
.65 country is in every respect most luxuriant and beautiful, and were there a sufficiency of inhabitants, as well as of horned cattle, it would no doubt make one of the most desirable abodes in the world.
563 Wood of the first growth, fish in a most abundant
361 quantity, game of the finest flavour, and of various species, pastures inconsumable; a chase which yields foxes, sables, river-otters, bears, wolves, &c. of the finest specimens, are what Cliuchie has to boast. Vegetables are raised with greater facility than in any other part of the peninsula. Wild berries are very abundant, and some little rye flour is produced, though not of so ripe a quality as to be of much use; such are, in short, the claims of Cliuchie, that it should undoubtedly be made the capital of the peninsula, and I am only astonished

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal



231 R 177 .23 ple, were they once imported upon a large scale. The dogs, like the aborigines, are on the decline, and probably twenty or thirty years more will leave nothing in Kamtchatka but the Russians and animals of the chase. When it is recollected that Kamtchatka has such magnificent and extensive meadows, and that the climate is not severe; and when it is considered with what facility government might send each year two or three hundred head of young cattle by the annual transports to Tygil, it may be naturally supposed that the different chiefs have been attending more to their personal concerns than to those of the peninsula. That the place might be made even to flourish, there can be no reasonable doubt.

651 R 177 .65 The expenses of the colony have been very great to Russia, and must continue so, as long as the present plan is persisted in. The yasack amounts to a less sum of money than the single maintenance of a chief. Five hundred heads of foxes or sables, worth six thousand roubles, or three hundred pounds, is the amount; while the expences of the colony cannot fall short of two hundred thousand roubles, or ten thousand pounds.

164 758 R 177 .75 The depopulated state of this peninsula is also to be attributed to other causes. Their continual wars and insurrections greatly thinned them, and these were followed by the introduction of the small-pox, which in the year 1768, carried off no less than six thousand persons; and twenty thousand are sup-

29:Cochrane T-2(1821-22)1824 Kamchadal



273 generation that the stock itself can be preserved,
435 which will not long be possible, if spirit continue
563 to be transported and retailed out as it now is.—
R While making these reflections in England, I am
177 aware that the Russian Government have desisted
.27 from this trade, but this is only the worse for the Kamtchatdales, inasmuch as the pedlers take an extra quantity, and demand a most exorbitant price for a spirit infinitely inferior.

651 The abuses arising from the collection of the
661 yasack are most cruel. The yasack itself is incon-
R siderable, but from the arbitrary manner in which
177 it is collected, it is rendered odious and oppressive.
.65 The tribute is levied in kind at any low or capricious valuation, and it has not unfrequently happened that the Toion of a village, who does not properly compliment the Chief or other officer, upon the annual visit, has so small a price put upon his furs, in payment of their tribute, that they sustain a loss of two, three, and even four hundred per cent. I have seen sables valued at half-a-crown for which the merchants present would have given twelve shillings. Independent of the yasack, each Kamtchatdale has to pay seventy copecs, or seven pence, as a sort of capitation or poll-tax, upon failure of which the Ispravnick may have recourse to the most arbitrary and unjust measures. Any property may be seized and sold on the moment, such as axes, knives, nets, guns, kettles, or the clothing of the family; and it has often happened that a

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22)1824 Kamchadal



651 poor family has been ruined through the cruel and
661 oppressive conduct of these tax-gatherers, not from
R a deficiency of the *legal* dues, but of illegal dues.
177 The mode of taxation in each ostrog is also highly
.65 objectionable, and sometimes rendered cruel. They are not taxed as a people but as a place, and it not unfrequently happens that the village which formerly contained forty or fifty able people, and was taxed as such, does not the following year contain more than twenty or twenty-five, in consequence of illness or removals. There is, however, no remedy, the yasack of the whole must be paid by the few. It is also not a little singular that each ostrog is taxed in money, and yet money cannot be received; the duplicity of this act is too apparent to be mentioned, yet it would be seen that the government must be unacquainted with a fact of the kind, for the difference in the amount of the tribute would not equal one hundred pounds. Instead of the sum of money at which each village is rated, the inhabitants are obliged to pay furs at one fourth the value. Sables of the finest quality, and worth forty shillings a pair, are never averaged at more than ten. It would be more honest to increase the nominal tribute of money, or put a specific tax on furs, which would be felt less severely, because an appearance of candour would accompany it.

651 The next galling tax is that levied for the tax-
661 gatherer himself, and this is a greater grievance
563 than that levied on behalf of the Emperor, and
R under more humiliating circumstances. Each os-
177
.66

29:Cochrane T-2(1821-22)1824 Kamchadal



651 trog, and each Toion or Chief of it, is also com-
661 pelled to pay the same tribute to his actual Chief
563 as to the Emperor himself; so that the yasack is
R *de facto* paid at least five times over.
177
.66 Nor is the impolitic system of collecting the tribute more injurious than that arising from forced or gratuitous services, such as the forwarding of the post, the transport of flour and salt, and the issuing of padvodies, or forced levies of horses or dogs, to officers and favourites. This is indeed an intolerable abuse, and calls loudly for redress. There can be no doubt but that if the proprietors of dogs were rewarded at a proper time and in a proper manner, they would as much court the employment as they now abhor it. According to the present plan the natives lose their time, their dogs, their health, and their provisions. Any favourite or officer who may wish to trade is furnished with one of these free billets, which authorizes him, upon the plea of public duty, to call out men and dogs. While the manner of the officer or favourite seems to intimate, that he confers an obligation upon the Chief of the village by his acceptance of a couple of sables as a present. Nor is this all: not content with the present, the party travelling has the privilege of trading, and buying just as many more sables as the poor aboriginal may have caught, and which are invariably sold for just such a consideration as the officer may incline to give.

If a governor or officer be compelled to travel upon public service, and receive from the Crown a

29:Cochrane T-2(1821-22)1824 Kamchadal



651 sum of money to pay travelling expenses, it seems
661 very strange that such money is not paid to these
563 poor people. As little can I understand why a post
R should travel gratis: surely the poorest and most
177 distant part of the Russian empire, should not be
.66 oppressed in such a manner. It is true, the sum paid by the government to officers when travelling is small, as well as that paid to the postillion when in charge of the post; but small as it is in itself, it would be acceptable to those to whom it would appear much. As to officers' travelling, for which there is no public necessity, they can at best but reap the advantages belonging to the fair trader, who is not inconsiderably taxed. I have heard an officer of high rank assert, that every voyage from Kamtchatka to Okotsk and back again, was worth ten thousand roubles, or five hundred pounds; and I believe he spoke the truth.

661 With respect to the pedlers, here denominated
183 merchants, they in truth ought to be taxed severe-
435 ly, as well in regard to the goods they bring as
441 the price at which they are sold, the articles being
563 such as are of light burthen, or will return the greatest profit. The ignorance of the aborigines is such, and their thoughtlessness of the future so great, that they prefer present luxuries to future
661 necessities. The quantity of articles hawked about
437 by the merchants consists of tobacco, spirits, silks,
439 tea, sugar, nankeen, and cotton handkerchiefs.
441 Every Kamtchatdale keeps open house, and upon
563 the arrival of a Russian his door is held open, the

29:Cochrane T-2(1821-22)1824 Kamchadal



000 each family of the aborigines be compelled to take from the government one pood of flour per month, at the price, say, of a sable or fox skin. The result would be, that government would issue an extra six thousand poods of flour at an expense of sixty thousand roubles, in return for which they would receive six thousand skins, worth at least ninety thousand roubles; leaving a gross profit of four times the price of the present yasack, and actually assisting the Kamtchatdales by the abandonment of a direct tax of half the amount—to say nothing of the benefits which would accrue from such a measure to the females and children who are now left for many days without tasting any other food than bad fish
651 or the bark of trees. I do not know what effect a
R poll-tax may have upon the animal frame, but it
177 appears to be no incitement to procreation. In
.65 Kamtchatka it is the same as in Mexico; a single man pays a heavy tax, a married man a heavier, and a father the heaviest of all. Such conduct is bad policy on the part of government, and carries with it more the appearance of a wish to extinguish than to increase the population of Siberia.

437 I have already commented upon the evil effects
563 arising from forced levies, and forced services; of
661 the transport of flour, salt, spirits, the post, as well
R as officers from one place to another without any
177 remuneration to the inhabitants. Of the conduct of
.66 these travelling gentlemen, high and low, it will be sufficient to give a specimen. The officer, upon arriving at a village, is received by the Toion or

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22)1824 Kamchadal



631 money as possible. The very shortest term of a
R chief's command at Kamtchatka should be ten
177 years: let him then only be liberally paid, and I
.63 will venture to say, that many suitable characters will be found, who will prefer to administer justice with clemency and honor, to the degrading of their characters by a mean and derogatory traffic. If an increase of rank, double pay and provisions, an extra pension, and the most unlimited powers are not sufficient to ensure a just discharge of the duties, what besides conscience ever can induce it?

136 Of the Kurile Islands, though they are not now
161 in the government of Kamtchatka, having been
651 ceded by the Emperor in property to the American
R Company, I shall make but a very few remarks,
177 and with them close my observations on Kamt-
.65 chatka.

This chain of islands is divided between the Russian and Japanese empires; of those belonging to the former empire, but few are inhabited. The first Kurile, situate at sixty-five miles from Cape Lopatka, has three yourtes, with four males and eight females, nominally paying as tribute six sea-otters and twelve roubles in money; but, as no sea-otters are found, and the islands abound in foxes, seven of these are received in lieu of them. There is in the island a tolerable road-stead for small craft on the NW side. Immense quan-
237 tities of waterfowl, as ducks, geese, and swans,
291 frequent the place; and from the skins and feathers

291
237
132
134
231

the inhabitants make their parkas and all their warm clothing, which are also exceedingly comfortable and beautiful. The climate of the islands resembles that of St. Peter and St. Paul's. The soil is generally good, producing fine pastures. On the first isle there was formerly an abundance of cattle, but now only two cows remain.

133
161
651
R
177
.65

The second island, about ninety miles from the first, has seven yourtes, with thirty-five males and forty-two females, paying tribute for itself and the fourteenth isle, nominally, thirty-five sea-otters; that is, twenty-three foxes and one hundred and fifty roubles. The fourteenth isle has three yourtes, fifteen males, and seventeen females. Of the intermediate islands, and those beyond the fourteenth, I could obtain but very little information; the whole are evidently volcanic productions, and are supposed to have been separated by some violent convulsion of nature from the peninsula of Kamtchatka. The islands, which are lofty and bold, are said to be without rivers, nor are there any harbours known. It is to be remembered, however, that they have been but very imperfectly surveyed. The inhabitants are supposed to be of the same origin as those of Kamtchatka, though they differ in the custom of wearing long beards, which was probably introduced among them by the Russians. Their dialect is the same with that of the inhabitants near Cape Lopatka; from whence baidares are frequently sent to the first and second isle, to bring the tribute and furs. [the Kurils--Analyst]

101
197
302
651
R
177
.65